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Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Claims 23-25 are canceled.

The amendments to the claims are believed to overcome the objections to and the §112 rejection of the claims.

Claims 14-22, 26 and 27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) for allegedly being anticipated by or under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) for allegedly being unpatentable over each of Kagawa, Greim and Azema. Applicants respectfully traverse each of these rejections.

According to the Examiner, Kagawa allegedly discloses polystyrene beads having a specific grain diameter added as porosity inducing agents. If in fact, however, the porosity inducing agent has a defined diameter, as alleged by the Examiner, the diameter of the pores of the sinter body in the same Table 1 could not be provided as the average diameter. (See heading in Table 1 "Average pore diameter (μm)"). Thus, since the porosity is provided only as an average value, the diameter of the porosity inducing agent stated in Table 1 can also only be an average value.

In Azema, as in Kagawa, an average diameter is claimed. Greim merely discloses that the average pore diameter is greater than 40 μm .

Thus, none of the references disclose a nominal diameter of 10 to 48 μm as presently claimed.

Furthermore, Applicants have indicated in claim 14 that the body "consisting of...a porosity of 2 to 12%...".

In view of the foregoing, allowance is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in the fees filed, asserted to be filed or which should have been filed herewith (or with any paper hereafter filed in

this application by this firm) to our Deposit Account No. 50-0624, under Order No. NY-DNAG-331-US.

Respectfully submitted

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